



PATENT
2809-0114P

#10 / Request to
w/D
Finality of
Action

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Hiromasa OKUBO et al. Conf. 2894
Serial No. 09/657,815 Examiner Crenshaw
Filed: September 8, 2000 Art Unit 2854
For: PRINTING BLANKET

**REQUEST TO WITHDRAW PREMATURE
INDICATION OF "FINALITY"**

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents December 28, 2001
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In preliminary response to the Official Action dated November 1, 2001, applicants request that the indication of "Finality" of the Official Action be withdrawn. The basis for this request is the following.

In the Official Action, the Examiner newly-cites Batti et al U.S. Patent No. 6,019,042 against the claims. This reference was previously made of record by the Examiner but not otherwise applied against the claims.

The claims were previously amended in response to the initial Official Action by cancellation of claims 1-7 and presentation of new claims 8-15. New claims 8-14 correspond to cancelled claims 1-7 and were rewritten to more clearly define

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L. Spawell

the claimed invention. New claim 15 is directed to a preferred embodiment not otherwise recited in the claims.

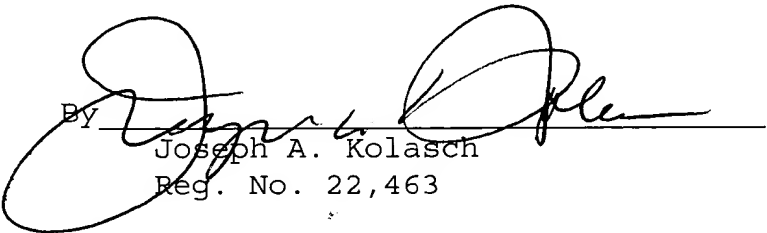
The presentation of the amended claims did not necessitate the new ground of rejection, except for the fact that the Examiner finds the prior rejection to be deficient in view of applicants' prior arguments. It is also noted that the Examiner makes no assertion that the amendment necessitated the new ground of rejection (which would in any event be without basis).

In view of the above, applicants believe that the indication of Finality is premature, and should be withdrawn.

Very truly yours,

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By


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